

What is claimed is:

1. An intravascular catheter, comprising:

an elongate shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a distal tip having a shapable length, the elongate shaft including:

an inner liner;

a second layer disposed over the inner liner, the second layer including a first segment and a second segment, the first segment extending to a distal terminus and the second segment extending from the distal terminus to a radiopaque marker band disposed proximal of the distal end of the shaft, wherein the distal terminus is set back from the distal end of the shaft a distance equal to or greater than the shapable length;

a third layer disposed over the second layer; and

a fourth layer disposed over the third layer, the fourth layer including a proximal end and a distal end.

2. The catheter in accordance with claim 1, wherein the distal terminus is about 4 millimeters from the distal end of the shaft.

3. The catheter in accordance with claim 2, wherein the shape of the distal tip can be heat set.

4. The catheter in accordance with claim 3, wherein the shape of the distal tip can be heat set by steam.

5. The catheter in accordance with claim 1, wherein the inner liner comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

6. The catheter in accordance with claim 5, wherein the second layer comprises polyether block amide.

7. The catheter in accordance with claim 6, wherein the third layer comprises a coil.

8. The catheter in accordance with claim 7, wherein the coil comprises stainless steel.

9. The catheter in accordance with claim 7, wherein the coil comprises nickel alloy.

10. The catheter in accordance with claim 7, wherein the coil comprises a non-ferrous metal.

11. The catheter in accordance with claim 7, wherein the fourth layer comprises polyether block amide.

12. The catheter in accordance with claim 11, wherein the distal end of the shaft has an outside diameter that is less than the outside diameter of the proximal end of the shaft.

13. The catheter in accordance with claim 12, wherein the distal end of the shaft has a durometer that is less than that of the proximal end of the shaft.

14. An intravascular catheter, comprising:
an elongate shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a distal tip having a shapable length, the elongate shaft including:

an inner liner;

a second layer disposed over the inner liner, the second layer including a first segment and a second segment, the first segment extending to a distal terminus and the second segment extending from the distal terminus to a radiopaque marker band disposed proximal of the distal end of the shaft, wherein the distal terminus is set back from the distal end of the shaft a distance equal to or greater than the shapable length;

a third layer disposed over the second layer; the third layer including a single coil region near the distal end of the shaft and a multiple coil region near the proximal end of the shaft; and

a fourth layer disposed over the third layer, the fourth layer including a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the durometer at the proximal end is greater than the durometer at the distal end.

15. The catheter in accordance with claim 14, wherein the distal terminus is about 4 millimeters from the distal end of the shaft.

16. The catheter in accordance with claim 15, wherein the shape of the distal tip can be heat set.

17. The catheter in accordance with claim 16, wherein the shape of the distal tip can be heat set by steam.

18. The catheter in accordance with claim 14, wherein the inner liner comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

19. The catheter in accordance with claim 18, wherein the second layer comprises polyether block amide.

20. The catheter in accordance with claim 19, wherein the third layer comprises a coil.

21. The catheter in accordance with claim 20, wherein the fourth layer comprises polyether block amide.

0944660-03404